



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTY.'S DOCKET: DECASTRO10

In re Application of:)	Art Unit: 3743
)	
Aurora L. FERNANDEZ-DECASTRO)	Examiner: A. M. RAGONESE
)	
Appln. No.: 10/659,325)	Confirmation No. 3767
)	
Filed: September 11, 2003)	Washington, D.C.
)	
For: MULTIPURPOSE MASK)	
)	

DECLARATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.131

Customer Window, Mail Stop
Honorable Commissioner for Patents
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
2011 South Clark Place
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, Virginia 22202

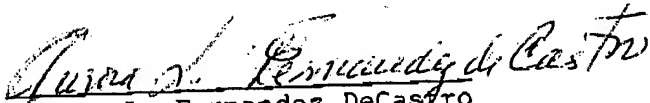
Sir:

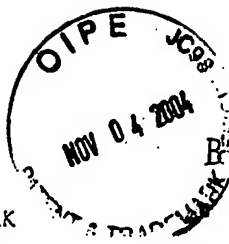
Aurora L. Fernandez DeCastro, the applicant in the above-identified patent application, declares as follows:

1. That sometime prior to October 17, 2002, I conceived of a multipurpose protective mask covering at least the nose and mouth of the wearer to protect the wearer from environmental agents such as particulates and microorganisms.
2. That the mask in question included an aperture or orifice allowing the wearer to receive hydration or nourishment, which aperture can be covered in a variety of different ways to preserve the integrity or total closure of the mask when there is no need for hydration or nutrition. Copies of relevant notebook pages signed by applicant and witnessed by Mary A. Sproull, are attached hereto as Appendix A.
3. That prior to October 17, 2002, applicant contacted her patent attorney and requested a patentability

search on the mask as further evidence of diligence.
A copy of the first page of the search report received
from applicant's attorney is attached hereto As
Appendix B.

Declarant further states that the above statements
were made with the knowledge that willful false
statements and the like so made are punishable by fine
and/or imprisonment, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of
the United States Code, and that any such willful
false statement may jeopardize the validity of this
application or any patent issuing therefrom.


Aurora L. Fernandez DeCastro



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Re: Patentability Search

FACE MASK

Our reference: S-DeCastro-1

Dear Aurora:

Thank you for your recent search request. In accordance therewith, we have now completed a patentability search regarding the above.

Briefly, the search was directed to individually wrapped face masks designed for use in airline cabins and other enclosed spaces. The masks contain no metal components, and are softer/more pliable around the nose area, so as to provide a more secure fit. The masks are held in place by an elastic band that fits around the wearer's ears. A flap or hole is provided at the mouthpiece to permit the wearer to sip drinks without removing the mask.

During the course of our search, the following patents were noted, copies of each of which are enclosed herewith. A search of the EPO, JPO, and U.S. Published Applications databases yielded no pertinent references.

<u>Patent Number</u>	<u>Date of Patent</u>	<u>Inventor(s)</u>
2,494,406	January 10, 1950	Reitano

